



County Corner

www.co.flathead.mt.us

Agency On Aging

When you or your parents have a question about services for the elderly, the Flathead County Agency on Aging is the focal point for your inquiries.

The mission of the Flathead County Agency on Aging is to "serve people with the goal of enabling persons 60 years of age and older to lead independent, meaningful and dignified lives by providing direct services, contracting for services and networking with the community to locate services."

The Agency on Aging is funded mostly through federal funds but is



Agency On Aging staff.

Agency On Aging Director JIM ATKINSON



With a BA in Psychology from the University of Montana and an MA in Special Education from the University of Oregon, Jim taught in Tacoma and Kalispell for 13 years before taking a sales position for Alltel Business Communications. Jim spent two years as a nursing home administrator before obtaining the position of director of Aging Services in 1993. Jim is married with five children, six grandchildren and a rich life in the Flathead. He is a member of Glacier Church and has had a second job as Kalispell City Councilman for 19 years.

administered by Flathead County. The programs offered consist of Meals on Wheels, Information and Assistance, Insurance Counseling, Ombudsman Services, Respite Cares, Caregiver Support, Senior Home Repair, Legal Counseling, Homemaker Services and other supportive services for seniors in the county. With the help of Federal Transit Act funds we also provide public transportation for the county. Though it started as a bus system for the elderly and disabled, it is rapidly expanding to serve the entire population even though it is still under the administrative umbrella of the Agency on Aging.

We work very closely with other human services agencies to field the concerns of our population and see that seniors get what they need to live independently in their own homes. The Agency is supported locally by county funds, Kalispell, Whitefish and Columbia Falls city funds, donations from banks, foundations, community organizations, interested individuals and contributions from the seniors who use the program.

Our meals program has five staff members and numerous volunteers that allow us to cook meals

for six congregate meal sites and deliver meals to over 100 home-bound seniors per day, five days per week.

There are three Information and Assistance technicians that go to senior citizens' homes and assess their needs. They then locate services that will meet those needs, see that the services are set up and monitor the services for as long as they are needed. The Program Manager is also the county Ombudsman, responsible for providing advocacy to seniors in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Eagle Transit has a Program Manager, three office staff and eight bus drivers. We provide public transportation to Kalispell, Whitefish and Columbia Falls as well as county routes and curb to curb service to the elderly and disabled.

The administration of the agency consists of the director, office administrator, financial assistant and receptionist.

If you have any questions about the Agency on Aging or its services, please feel free to call us at 758-5730.

"The needs of the future take precedent over the demands of the present."

— County Commissioners: Bob Watne, Gary Hall & Joe Brenneman